

RECOGNITION OF NANCY  
GERMANN

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Nancy Germann of Jefferson County, Illinois. Nancy was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Nancy received this honor for her lifelong service to others. For thirty-three years she made a positive difference in the lives of students. She loves teaching so much she returned to the classroom after her retirement as a special education aide. Nancy is extremely involved in her church and community. Some of her activities include singing in the church choir, assisting with the soup kitchen and Thanksgiving dinner for the needy, and serving as a director for Cedarhurst Chamber Music along with helping with other Cedarhurst activities.

I want to congratulate and thank Nancy for all she has done and will continue to do for the people in her community. She is a saint to all who know her and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

HONORING CHARLES MIXSON

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an outstanding constituent of mine from the Fifth Congressional District of Florida who has, because of his extraordinary achievement, been named by the Florida Professional Engineers in Government as the 2003 Government Engineer of the Year.

Charles Mixson is the County Engineer and Public Works Director in my home town of Brooksville. He is a published author, his work having appeared in American Public Works Magazine in 2002. He graduated from the University of Florida in 1977 with a civil engineering degree and has since completed several continuing education courses.

He is a member of the Florida and National Engineering Societies, the Florida and National Association of County Engineers, the American Public Works Association, and the Florida Department of Transportation Greenbook Advisory Committee. He has served in leadership roles in several of these organizations.

In addition to his professional achievements, Mr. Mixson is an upstanding community leader, as he is an active supporter of the Boy Scouts and is the immediate past president of the Kiwanis Club of Brooksville.

Mr. Speaker, it is easy to see why the Florida Professional Engineers in Government chose Mr. Mixson as their Government Engineer of the Year. Mr. Mixson has certainly worked hard to earn this honor and he is deserving of every accolade I or his peers could bestow on him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating and honoring a fine American and

a man whom I am proud to represent in this chamber.

RECOGNITION OF ALFRED  
"MUGSY" BEAN

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Alfred "Mugsy" Bean of Jefferson County, Illinois. Mugsy was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Mugsy received this honor for his lifelong service to others. On the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Mugsy immediately volunteered for service to his country. He was embroiled in World War II for close to four years. For the past 25 years Mugsy has served as a member of American Legion Post 141 Funeral Detail and has worked on the Jefferson County Veteran's Memorial Committee. He is known to treat all with the same respect and to reach out to those in need. Mugsy has been married to Louise for 58 years and has raised four children.

I want to congratulate and thank Mugsy for all he has done and will continue to do for the people in his community. He is a saint to all who know him and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

ARMY SPECIALIST BRANDON  
JACOB ROWE

**HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the honor of attending the memorial service for a heroic young man from Roscoe, Illinois, who selfishly gave his life to protect our families and our freedoms in the United States and to give the Iraqi people a future without terror and oppression.

Brandon Jacob Rowe would have turned 21 years old on April 14, 2003. But on March 31, the Army Specialist from the 101st Airborne Division was killed in an ambush near Najaf, Iraq. Brandon, who earned a waiver and was promoted to Specialist early, was one of two machine gunners in his infantry rifle platoon. According to Major Gen. Robert T. Clark, who presented Brandon's mother with her son's Purple Heart at the memorial service, machine gunners are the most important soldiers in a rifle platoon because they provide the firepower that protects the rest of the men. As Brandon's older brother, Brent, so aptly put it, "He was my short little brother, but he was one hell of a man."

I never met Brandon Rowe. But I learned of his character and his love for his country after meeting his courageous family. Brandon's mother, his father, his brothers, his sister, and his aunts, uncles and cousins are obviously in tremendous pain right now after losing him. Even amid that anguish, their pride for Brandon and their support of his mission shines through. Brandon made a tremendous impression on his family and all who knew him. I wish I had known him, Mr. Speaker.

I have enclosed a tribute to Brandon written by his Aunt Cecile shortly after his death. Brandon's sister, Leah, read the tribute at his memorial service on April 12 at Hononegah High School in Rockton, Illinois:

UNNAMED SOLDIER, ROSCOE, ILLINOIS

Now we can tell his name. His name is Brandon Jacob Rowe. He had other names—our son, our stepson, our grandson, our brother and brother-in-law, our nephew, our cousin, our boyfriend, our dear friend, our co-worker, our comrade-in-arms, our buddy, our neighbor and more. For what seemed to us a long, long while, though it was only a few days, he was known through media reports only as the first combat casualty from the 101st Airborne in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

His name is Brandon Jacob Rowe and he died in Iraq because he was committed to a cause. His death is not senseless, but full of purpose and meaning. He appreciated his freedom, and felt that everyone deserved to be free. He was proud of the job he was doing to serve his country.

He died trying to make life better for others, trying to do his part to rid the world of those who oppress the innocent. Brandon put his life, his heart, on the line so others he didn't even know wouldn't have to continue to live in terror. He had great admiration for his grandfather, who fought for our country's freedom and earned a Purple Heart as an Army paratrooper during the Second World War. Brandon wanted to do something with his life that had real value and merit. Brandon's life certainly had both.

Brandon was known for his sense of humor and fun, but he had a quiet, deep spirituality that others did not always see. They did know he was strong, and kind, and always looking out for others' welfare before his own. He sensed when others were lacking, or hurting, or needing a friend; he became that friend. Brandon always put others before himself, concerned about the welfare of his buddies, his teammates, his family and friends.

From his first smile to his last, the kindness and sweetness in his face shone out of him. His goodness drew people to him for all of his nearly 21 years. One could not see his smile without feeling happier, without feeling glad to know him.

We in his family love and honor Brandon, and thank all those who have shown love and support at this difficult time. We are grateful to his hometown friends and the members of the 101st Airborne he was so proud to be associated with, and with whom he served his country. He offered up the ultimate sacrifice. It was not in vain, Brandon, and we will not ever forget.

RECOGNITION OF WILMA KIMMEL

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Wilma Kimmel of Jefferson County, Illinois. Wilma was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Wilma received this honor for her lifelong service to others. She is known as a dedicated wife and mother. She and her husband, Ardell, raised three children. In order to help send her children to college she began work as a secretary for the Mt. Vernon School System where she worked for twenty years.